

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3167
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UNCLAS TEHRAN 5471

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR IR
SUBJ: SHAH'S INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH NATIONAL TELEVISION

1. IRANIAN MEDIA FRONT PAGED SHAH'S RECENT INTERVIEW WITH
EDOUARD SABLIER OF FRENCH NATIONAL TELEVISION. TEXT OF
INTERVIEW IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH PRESS COVERAGE BEING
POUCHED DEPARTMENT.

2. SHAH COMMENTED ON NUMBER OF ISSUES -- ARMS SALES, HUMAN
RIGHTS, OIL POLICY -- IN STANDARD VEIN. GIST OF HIS REMARKS
ON MAJOR ISSUES FOLLOWS.

3. ARMS SALES: SHAH SAID RUMORS THAT US HAS SUSPENDED
DELIVERY OF WEAPONS, SPARES TO IRAN ARE GROUNDLESS BUT
INDICATED IRAN WOULD SHOP ELSEWHERE FOR WEAPONS IF US
UNWILLING TO MEET IRANIAN NEEDS. HE EMPHASIZED "WE HAVE NOT
ENCOUNTERED ANY DIFFICULTIES AND I DON'T THINK ANY DIFFICULTIES
WILL ARISE IN THE FUTURE."

4. HUMAN RIGHTS: SHAH NOTED IRAN WAS FIRST COUNTRY
2500 YEARS AGO TO RISE IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. SHAH
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REITERATED STANDARD PHRASE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS DOES NOT
PERMIT INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS
(REFERENCE TO TERRORISM) AND CRITICIZED CERTAIN SECTIONS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL MASS MEDIA FOR WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS
"INTELLECTUAL TERRORISM".

5. ISRAEL: SHAH INDICATED EARLY REPORTS ON VIEWS OF

THE PROSPECTIVE RULING LIKUD PARTY "ARE NOT AT ALL ENCOURAGING OR EVEN ACCEPTABLE". "HOW IS IT POSSIBLE", HE ASKS RHETORICALLY, "TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT UN RESOLUTION 242, WHICH SPEAKS OF SECURE BORDERS FOR ISRAEL?" SHAH SAID HE PREFERS TO WAIT UNTIL NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS FORMED BEFORE EXPRESSING FINAL OPINION.

6. OIL POLICY: SHAH PRAISED PRESIDENT CARTER'S VIEWS ON ENERGY, NOTING THAT THE PRESIDENT "COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDS THE MEANING OF RESPONSIBILITY." SHAH NOTED WISEK JEALOUSY OVER IRAN'S PROGRESS AND FIGHT TO SECURE FULL UTILIZATION OF ITS OIL RESERVES.

7. SEYCHELLES COUP: SHAH SAID GOVERNMENT OF SEYCHELLES WAS OF NO CONCERN TO IRAN IF COUP WAS A PURELY INTERNAL MATTER, BUT IF OUTSIDERS ARE SELECTING THOSE WHO GOVERNED, THEN THE PROBLEM CONCERNED ALL LITTORAL STATES ON THE INDIAN OCEAN.
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